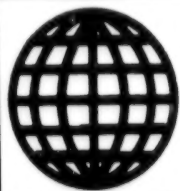


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19 MARCH 1992



**FOREIGN
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JPRS Report

Near East & South Asia

MOROCCO

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JPRS-NEA-92-030

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INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

EEC Envoy Visits; Discusses Future Relations

LD2802112492 Rabat MAP in English 1243 GMT
27 Feb 92

[Text] Rabat, Feb 27 (MAP)—Envoy of the EEC, Victor Martins, Portuguese secretary of state for European integration, underlined Wednesday at the end of a short visit to Morocco "the political will" of the EEC ministerial council to promote its relations with Morocco, "a friendly country with which relations should be consolidated and developed".

"There is a genuine desire on the part of the EEC chairmanship (Portugal) so that the context of work with Morocco be more positive and more pragmatic", Martins said in a statement to the media shortly before leaving Rabat.

Martins informed Moroccan Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Abdellatif Filali on the outcome of the latest EEC ministerial council convened in Lisbon and during which the EEC foreign ministers unanimously adopted a French proposal to conclude a free-exchange accord with Morocco. The EEC officials deplored the European Parliament veto that blocked the 463 million [words indistinct] financial accord.

About the free exchange accord, Martins said that "beyond the economic, there is the political and the EEC chairmanship is determined to endeavour so that cooperation with Morocco be not viewed only from the mere aspect of geographical proximity but be given a genuine and qualitative momentum".

Morocco-EEC relations, he said, must be tackled in a new positive approach and the proposed free exchange accord will be beneficial to both sides.

Regarding the Morocco-EEC fisheries accord that expires this February 29 and whose negotiations were suspended after the European Parliament rejected the Morocco-EEC financial accords Martins said the suspension of the negotiations was not discussed with Moroccan officials but the fisheries accord was brought [words indistinct] the normal course of discussions.

"Fish should not poison relations between the EEC and Morocco. It is up to the competent commission to negotiate the fisheries accord and the overall fisheries dossier", Martins said.

Trade Relations With Greece, Figures Reported

92AF0491D Casablanca MAROC SOIR in French
19 Feb 92 p 7

[Article: "Greece-Morocco Economic Relations: Enormous Potential"]

[Text] A delegation of Greek businessmen visited our country recently. The delegation made contacts in Rabat and Casablanca with government agencies and economic institutions as well as with Moroccan businessmen.

The businessmen from the two countries deplored the rather low level of bilateral trade. At the conclusion of this exploratory visit and in light of the contacts made, the delegation's leader told us he expects to return very soon to Morocco at the head of an industrial delegation from the Larissa region (the country's main industrial zone). Mr. Siskos said he is firmly convinced there are immense prospects for trade and joint ventures. As a member of UMA [Arab Maghreb Union], Morocco is a preferred partner for the conquest of Arab and African markets. Greece, as a member of the EEC, could offer Morocco special access to the European single market that is to go into effect as of 1 January.

In short, there was unanimous agreement that the relatively low level of trade completely fails to reflect the enormous potential that could easily be exploited via trade or joint ventures.

The following are some figures provided by the Casablanca Chamber of Commerce and Industry:

- In 1990, Greece was Morocco's 47th-largest external supplier, accounting for 0.19 percent of our country's total imports;
- Greece was our 31st-largest customer, buying 0.25 percent of our total exports.

The following chart shows fluctuations in trade between the two countries over the last 3 years:

Morocco-Greece Trade, 1988-1990

Year	Imports		Exports		Rate of Coverage
	Tons	1000's of dirhams	Tons	1000's of dirhams	Percent
1988	49,080	51,785	232,881	164,382	317.4
1989	4,796	67,083	253,466	175,732	262.0
1990	14,123	109,234	235,180	144,626	132.4

Overview of Trade With Italy Reported*92AF0435A Rabat L'OPINION in French 6 Feb 92 p 6*

[Article by H. Toubi: "Made in Italy"]

[Text] Italy is surprising on every front, including the economy, the arts, sports, and even domestic politics, which only Italians seem to understand.

Italy is our third-largest trading partner after France and Spain.

The volume of transactions increased steadily during the last decade and totaled 6,283 million dirhams (DH) in 1990 compared to DH1,569 million in 1981. Moroccan imports from Italy totaled DH3,870.5 million in 1990 compared to DH973.3 million in 1981, reflecting an average annual growth rate of 15.4 percent, and accounted for 6.8 percent of our total purchases, compared to 4.3 percent in 1981.

Moroccan exports to that country totaled DH2,412.5 million in 1990 compared to DH595.8 million in 1981, for an average annual growth rate of 16.1 percent, and their share of our total sales came to 6.9 percent compared to 5.0 percent in 1981.

For its part, the Moroccan-Italian trade balance is characterized by a chronic imbalance that is unfavorable to us.

In 1990, for example, it showed a deficit of DH1,457.9 million compared to DH377.5 million in 1981, while the rate at which imports were covered by exports ranged from 61 percent to 85 percent between 1981 and 1990.

Over the past three years, we have witnessed a marked acceleration in the flow of trade between Morocco and Italy.

In 1990, our imports from Italy consisted of the following: 40 percent equipment goods, 36 percent semi-manufactures, 16 percent consumer goods, and 8 percent raw materials.

For their part, shipments of raw materials increased by 6.9 percent, rising from DH439.7 million to DH469.9 million.

The increase was accounted for primarily by sales of phosphates: DH126.4 million compared to DH114.4 million (+10.5 percent). On the other hand, exports of paper pulp dropped by 47.3 percent to DH82.8 million. That decline was offset by sales of olive oil at DH86.7 million.

At the end of the first nine months of 1991, trade between Morocco and Italy showed a deficit of DH1,305.2 million, compared to DH934.4 million for the corresponding period in 1990. That is an increase of 39.7 percent.

The rate at which imports were covered by exports consequently dropped by more than 10 points: from 64.8 percent to 54.3 percent.

The rise in imports is explained basically by increased purchases of equipment goods, which, at 45 percent of the total, rose from DH1,064.3 million to DH1,301.6 million for an increase of DH237.3 million, or 22.3 percent.

On the other hand, the decline in exports is due partly to the drop in sales of semimanufactures (25 percent of exports), which fell from DH606.0 million to DH385.6 million (-36.4 percent), and partly to lower shipments of raw materials (16 percent of exports), which fell by 32.0 percent from DH370.2 million to DH251.7 million.

Italian firms are increasingly present in Morocco. Among other things, they are involved in planning and building the Rabat-Laarache freeway.

In addition, the Moroccan-Italian Joint Commission for Trade decided at its recent meeting in Marrakech (in December) to participate in setting up PME [small and medium-size businesses] as joint ventures.

The development of trade between Morocco and Italy is bound to be permanent, but the imbalance is threatening to slow it a little.

The fact remains that the label "Made in Italy" [published in English] is always appreciated by the Moroccan consumer.

Ongoing Differences Affect Relations With France*92AF0406C London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 9 Feb 92 p 4*

[Article by Muhammad al-Ashhab]

[Text] Rabat—Observers in Rabat attribute the postponement of French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas' visit to Morocco, scheduled for tomorrow, to reasons other than those cited by French diplomatic sources. The reasons cited by French diplomatic sources concern the French National Assembly's discussion of the withdrawal of confidence from the government because of reactions to the Parus visit by the General Secretary of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, Dr. George Habash.

Observers in Rabat maintain that the main reason for the postponement is the French authorities' failure to display any enthusiasm about preventing the publication of a book by Moroccan oppositionist [Abdel]moumen Diouri, "Who Owns Morocco," whose publication coincided with King Hassan II's trip to New York to participate in the summit of leaders of UN Security Council countries. Moroccan sources believe that French inaction in this regard is an attempt to insult Morocco at this particular time. In addition, the meeting that New York hosted between King Hassan II and French President Francois Mitterrand apparently failed to surmount the

complications through which French-Moroccan relations are passing, because France had been hoping that King Hassan II would stop in France on his way back from New York to affirm his desire to overcome the crisis, which has existed between the two countries for a number of months. Moroccans have been blaming the European Parliament, in which French deputies constitute a pressure bloc, for not approving the fourth financial protocol granting Morocco and Syria \$600 million in loans. Morocco's Foreign Minister, Dr. Abdellatif Filali, stated that Morocco will not submit to extortion of this type for \$73 million per year.

In recent months, Morocco has been consolidating a new political trend toward benefitting from its relations with Spain and Italy. It ratified friendship and cooperation treaties with these two countries, and it is drafting a third treaty on the same level with Portugal. It seems that French circles with strong trade ties to Morocco are dissatisfied with this trend, which is depriving them of a sphere of considerable commercial power and political influence.

Observers say that the return of French-Moroccan relations to their previous state is linked to substantial movement toward urging the European Parliament to understand Morocco's position. Moroccan Finance Minister Mohamed Berrada was recently quoted as saying: "We greatly appreciate the efforts being made to correct this mistake." In addition, the European Parliament's position on the [Western] Saharan conflict continues to pose problems for the development of French-Moroccan relations. Socialist Deputy Jean Pierre Cot, the chairman of the Socialist group in the European Parliament, stated that the financial protocol between Morocco and the EEC will not be issued before the start of the coming summer.

Moroccan officials respond by saying that "only the UN has the authority to set the date [for the Western Saharan referendum]," and that Rabat has frequently drawn the UN's attention to the delay in the [UN's] implementation of measures needed to hold the referendum. King Hassan II has clearly expressed his country's desire to hold the referendum in the early summer of 1992, after the UN has settled the dispute over the lists of participants in the referendum.

New Trade Agreement Signed With Senegal

92AF0420C Casablanca MAROC SOIR in French
18 Jan 92 pp 1, 3

[Text] The 11th session of the joint Moroccan-Senegalese Committee came to a close late Friday morning in Rabat with the signing, by the minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, Abdellatif Filali, and his Senegalese counterpart, Djibo Laity Ka, of the minutes of the committee's work.

Moroccan and Senegalese experts met for two days to evaluate bilateral cooperation and examine means to promote such cooperation, particularly in the commercial and economic fields.

The two parties drafted a new commercial agreement "compatible with commitments made by each of the two countries" to other nations or organizations.

According to the agreement, Rabat and Dakar will exchange lists of products that will receive tariff preferences in order to broaden commercial trade between the two countries.

Joint cooperation programs between the Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Morocco and its Senegalese counterpart and the CGEM [Moroccan General Economic Federation] and Senegalese employers were also thoroughly examined.

The two countries drafted a "mutual administrative convention" in order to survey obstacles standing in the way of commercial trade. They also agreed to guarantee mutual protection for investments in the field of insurance and reinsurance.

A vital sector for the Moroccan and Senegalese economies is fishing, to which the two delegations devoted close attention. They agreed to intensify cooperation, particularly through an exchange of knowledge, information, and experience. It should be noted that Morocco, Senegal, and Mauritania comprise a major maritime fishing zone in the Atlantic Ocean.

In addition, within the framework of South-South cooperation, Morocco stated its willingness to assist in the construction of the Cayor Canal in Senegal, a hydraulic project that would make it possible to supply the city of Dakar with drinking water and irrigate some 240,000 hectares of farmland.

Cooperation on culture, agriculture, tourism, transportation, and handicrafts was also examined by the two countries. Measures were taken to give a new boost to such cooperation and lend support to both countries' political determination to come closer together and reaffirm their ties.

Filali expressed satisfaction with the results of the 11th session of the Moroccan-Senegalese Joint Committee, emphasizing the exemplary nature that has always marked cooperation between the two nations.

He also announced the creation of a follow-up committee whose task it will be to oversee and supervise the execution of joint projects and lend more credibility to bilateral cooperation.

For his part, Jibo Laity Ka hailed Morocco's understanding of Senegal's problems despite a difficult international situation, saying it was a "fine demonstration of the multisecular friendship linking the two countries."

Finally, the Senegalese minister said the committee's 11th session was a veritable turning point in relations between his country and Morocco.

Solidarity Day With Iraqi People Celebrated

92AF0395C Casablanca AL-ITTIHAD AL-ISHTIRAKI
in Arabic 28 Jan 92 p 1

[Text of statement issued by the Moroccan National Committee for Solidarity With the Iraqi People, issued in Rabat on 17 January 1992]

[Text] Today, 17 January 1992, is the first anniversary of launching the unjust aggression against the brotherly Iraqi people by the Western imperialist-Zionist-reactionary alliance, the aggression that has subjected the Iraqi children, women, and young and old people to the most barbarous type of killing and genocide. The aggression was an attempt to destroy the civilization, culture, and history of the people, thus demonstrating the hatred and resentment the imperialist and colonialist forces harbor against the sons of the Arab nation and its glorious history.

The Iraqi people stood fast and bravely in the face of the barbarous destructive machine, thus proving to the whole world the will and the ability of the Arab people to stand in the face of imperialist hegemony, to defy the colonialist arrogance and Western hatred, and to defend their honor and the things they hold sacred.

One year has passed since the aggression was launched, yet the barbarous war machine is continuing to turn. It resorts to the most abominable forms of killing and revenge. It is imposing an economic, food, and medical blockade against the Iraqi people, thus exposing the life of its children, women, and old and young people to the dangers of famine and diseases. It has put before the world conscience a tragic image of terror and barbarism.

The Arab people's solidarity has turned a new page of support and assistance for the brotherly Iraqi people. The 3 February 1991 demonstration was an occasion in which the Moroccan people confirmed their unequivocal affiliation to the Arab nation and their unconditional support for the brotherly Iraqi people.

The Moroccan National Committee for Solidarity with the Iraqi People, whose birth was the embodiment of support and solidarity, expresses its admiration and pride in the steadfast brotherly Iraqi people in the face of the aggressor countries' schemes and conspiracies. It renews the Moroccan people's solidarity and reasserts its continued stand alongside the Iraqi people until all effects of aggression are removed and the economic and food blockade imposed on it is lifted.

We call on officials in all parts of the Arab world to work for ending this aggressive blockade and to exert efforts in order to rescind the unjust resolutions issued against the brotherly Iraqi people.

We urge all the citizens to continue to offer all forms of support, backing, and assistance.

Emergency Food Aid Shipped to Russian Federation

92AF0420A Casablanca MAROC SOIR in French
7 Feb 92 p 1

[Text] Rabat (MAP)—In accordance with instructions from King Hassan II, a shipment of 967 tons of food aid for the Russian Federation was loaded at the port of Casablanca Thursday morning.

The aid included oil-yielding products, oranges, sugar, oil, rice, olives, canned fish, and other items.

Speaking at a special ceremony, Maati Joryo, ambassador and director of European and American affairs in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, first pointed to the difficult situation Russia is now experiencing and said the aid was being sent to that country in accordance with instructions from the King. He emphasized that Moroccan-Russian relations are secular and based on friendship and solidarity.

King Hassan II wanted Morocco to grant the emergency aid in the form of food products to Russia, which is now going through difficult circumstances, Joryo said.

For his part, Yuri Rimakov, Russian ambassador to Rabat, spoke on behalf of Russian officials to express their warm gratitude to the King and the Moroccan people for this aid to the Russian people. The Russian diplomat noted that the humanitarian action is significant in more than one way. First of all, it reflects the generosity of the King and the Moroccan people and bears witness to the traditional friendship between the Moroccan and Russian peoples.

Finally, Rimako said the Russian people will honor that friendship.

Establishing Ties To Indonesia Discussed

92AF0491A Casablanca MAROC SOIR in French
19 Feb 92 p 3

[Article by MAP: "Morocco Disposed To Establish Cooperation With Indonesia in Fields of Tourism and Telecommunications"]

[Text] Jakarta—Mr. Saad Alami, third vice president of the house of representatives, stated that Morocco is disposed to establish cooperation with Indonesia in the fields of tourism and telecommunications, according to the Indonesian press agency ANTARA.

Mr. Alami, during his talks Tuesday in Jakarta with Mr. Soesilo Soedarman, Indonesia's minister for tourism, posts and telecommunications, said such cooperation is particularly appropriate since both countries are member states of the Islamic Conference Organization (OCI).

"Together we must establish bilateral cooperation and exchange our experiences," said Mr. Alami, who is heading an eight-member Moroccan parliamentary delegation that arrived in Indonesia on Monday for a visit at the invitation of the Indonesian parliament.

Mr. Soedarman said that "as members of OCI, it is incumbent on us to intensify our cooperation in various domains, notably in tourism and telecommunications," the same source added. He also indicated that in the field of tourism, OCI member countries have committed themselves to give preference to their partners within the organization in the acquisition of touristic infrastructure and telecommunications.

In that context, the Indonesian minister for tourism, posts, and telecommunications underlined that Indonesia is ready to offer tourism and telecommunications equipment to Morocco, including "our telephone cable, which has been exported to Iran, among other places."

Austrian Delegation Discusses Trade Cooperation

LD2602102492 Rabat MAP in English 1250 GMT
25 Feb 92

[Text] Rabat, Feb. 25 (MAP)—The Moroccan-Austrian joint commissions of economic and technical cooperation and of trade cooperation opened their second sessions here Monday to look into trade, financial, agricultural, transport and energy cooperation.

According to Abderrahim Benmoussa, an executive at the Moroccan Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Ministry, the balance sheet of Moroccan-Austrian relations was relatively positive recently but, he conceded, despite the increase in trade exchanges between the two countries, the level is still below the two countries' potentials.

For his part, head of the Austrian delegation, Assistant Minister in charge of Bilateral Trade Relations at the Federal Foreign Department pointed out Morocco-Austria relations should meet requirements set by the EEC or cooperation with non-member countries as Austria is convinced its membership to the EEC will be accepted by 1995 owing to progress achieved in the country.

REGIONAL AFFAIRS

Saudi-Moroccan Investment Company Views Projects

92AF0406B London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic
13 Feb 92 p 10

[Article by Hatim al-Btioui]

[Text] Rabat—The Moroccan-Saudi Developmental Investment Company (MSDIC) held its first meeting yesterday in Rabat. Moroccan Finance Minister Mohamed Berrada stated that it was decided that the capital specified for the company's projects when it was

founded is insufficient. It has therefore been decided to rely on other means to stimulate the flow of capital. He said that these means would create another channel for attracting and mobilizing the financial resources needed for production and service projects.

Regarding the company's plans, Berrada said that several objective criteria were established to provide ongoing support to the company and to strengthen its activity. These criteria include focusing on establishing production projects, following the lead of approved development plans, applying the rules of financial soundness in granting financing, and pursuing economic feasibility and a financial return.

In the same context, 'Abd-al-'Aziz Muhammad al-Turki, MSDIC's board chairman, stated that the company's founding charter provides it with a substantial measure of flexibility and a large number of operating methods. This flexibility, he stressed, will enable the company to mobilize local resources and attract foreign capital to add to its capital.

al-Turki said that MSDIC enjoys the support of both the Saudi and Moroccan governments. He said that the facilities to be granted to MSDIC by the Moroccan Government, in the form of tax exemptions and the freedom to transfer funds [abroad], will create a climate of confidence that will encourage MSDIC to undertake investment activities.

He added that MSDIC's ability to succeed is linked to the policy to be pursued by its board of directors regarding the mobilization of resources and the channeling of investments. He said that MSDIC can best ensure its survival and continued activity by extensively applying the principle of guaranteed earnings to the projects in which it will invest.

al-Turki expressed hope that the company will concentrate on clearly-defined economic fields and guaranteed returns, and that it will avoid entering into investment adventures that might yield negative results.

The Kingdom of Morocco and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia each have an equal share in the company's capital of 400 million Moroccan dirhams.

The agreement establishing the company was signed in Riyadh in 1989 and went into effect in 1991, when the two parties exchanged instruments ratifying it. The company will be concerned with creating industrial, tourism, agricultural, and real estate projects.

Algeria Urged To End Support for Polisario

92AF0406A London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic
9 Feb 92 p 1

[Text] Rabat—Moroccan Minister of State Ahmed Alaoui called on Algeria to stop all of its direct and indirect support for the Polisario [Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia el-Hamra and Rio de Oro] in order to emerge from the quagmire of the [Western] Sahara.

He stated that, if it does so, it will have acted in the service of stability in the region and the strengthening of the foundation of the Arab Maghreb Union [UMA].

In an editorial in *LE MATIN DU SAHARA*, Alaoui comments on statements made recently by Mohamed Boudiaf, the president of Algeria's Higher State Council, saying: A quick resolution—as long as brother Boudiaf desires one—lies simply in abandoning political and material support for the Polisario, by permitting detainees at the camps of Tindouf to return to Morocco." He added that Algeria, if it did so, would "decisively strengthen its good relations with Morocco, which has stayed, and will always stay, at Algeria's side in difficult moments."

President Boudiaf referred to the existence of a dispute between Morocco and Algeria, calling it the "Sahara problem" without mentioning the adjective "western," which Algerian media and diplomatic circles had become accustomed to using.

Various Moroccan political and party circles have expressed satisfaction with Boudiaf's statements, indicating that this is the first time that an Algerian official has recognized the existence of a dispute between Morocco and Algeria, rather than between Morocco and the "Polisario Front."

However, Moroccan newspapers have noted a change introduced by the Algerian News Agency to President Boudiaf's statements, as he expressed them to Algerian television. This change involves the agency's replacement of the expression "problem between Morocco and Algeria" with the expression "parties to the conflict," which gives the impression that the dispute is limited to Morocco and the Polisario.

Islamic Development Bank Provides Loan for Dam

*LD2102040392 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1845 GMT
19 Feb 92*

[Excerpt] Tripoli, 19 Feb (JANA)—An agreement was signed in Tripoli today on the sidelines of the 16th annual meeting of the Board of the Islamic Development Bank between Morocco and the Islamic Development Bank. The bank will extend a 7.3-billion-dollar loan to finance part of the cost of building a dam on Hachef River in Tetouan Province in northern Morocco. [passage omitted]

INTERNAL AFFAIRS

King Hassan Grants Pardon To Several Detainees

*LD0303170992 Rabat MAP in English 1309 GMT
3 Mar 92*

[Text] Rabat, March 3 (MAP)—On the occasion of the throne day, commemorated this March 3rd, King Hassan II of Morocco granted free pardon to several detainees.

Under the move, 112 detainees will benefit from a total remission of their prison sentence, 141 detainees will have their imprisonment sentence reduced, 31 people will benefit from a total remission of the imprisonment sentence with the maintaining of the fine and 11 persons will get total pardon.

Two people will earn total remission of imprisonment term and fines, two others will earn years of remission and one person will have a fine remission.

King Meets With Farmers' Committee in Parliament

*92AF0440B Casablanca AL-ITTIHAD AL-ISHTIRAKI
in Arabic 13 Feb 92 p 5*

[Article: "His Majesty the King Heads Working Session With Members of Chamber of Deputies' Agriculture Committee"]

[Text] Two days ago, his majesty the king received at the royal palace in Marrakech members of the Chamber of Deputies' Agriculture, Agrarian Reform, and Livestock Resources Committee, and headed a working meeting with the committee.

His majesty delivered an address focusing on measures to counter the effect of the drought on the countryside. The address noted the following, in particular:

"What are the dangers that ordinarily accompany drought years? There is, of course, the drop in agricultural production and in grains, for example. As for grains, whether barley or wheat, the government can purchase and sell them at appropriate prices. But is the need for grains the only loss that farmers incur? The loss that afflicts farmers is of a financial nature, considering that they don't get the income they have been expecting. Thus, their purchasing power diminishes and they cannot find enough to support their children and families. The farmers no longer obtain the incomes on which they have been relying.

"So what happens? They begin selling their lands piece by piece. A medium-sized farmer sells a large part of his livestock, but a farmer who has no more than a small piece of land from which to eke out a living for himself and his family abandons everything and emigrates to the city to burden its population.

"We don't want anything of that sort to happen.

"Despite all this, I personally believe that there are guidance activities which cannot be carried out by the government alone. We will, of course, request that loan repayments be postponed at times. Fodder for livestock and seed for the coming year are also the government's responsibility.

"But the question that remains is: How do we employ labor? During harvest time, we used to look, as people say, 'with a candle in broad daylight' for a single worker, at any cost, but could not find one. These farm workers

have to be employed and they must continue to live and stay in their countryside strongholds. They must not leave their provinces to saddle the cities with a greater burden and to compound the overcrowding. These people have to be employed, but not in projects that waste money and produce no benefit. They have to be employed in lasting projects that produce benefits for the people, i.e., real employment that enhances the workers' purchasing power and offers them work that is fruitful and beneficial.

"Through my meeting with you, I wish to urge you, may God give you success, to hold frequent meetings with the government and with concerned government officials. We have received reports from the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Interior, and every one of them speaks of the funds that have been allocated for aid in this area and about programs for local activities. Here emerges your role and the role of your brother parliamentarians, who are not members of the Agriculture Committee, in holding local meetings at the labor level, the provincial level, or the rural government level to study with the governors and with the administration officials, whether in agriculture, in public works, in the Ministry of Interior, in agricultural loans, or in other agencies, what practical activities can be created. These activities should not be called activities to combat unemployment and should be designed to complement the agricultural irrigation agencies existing in every province. I don't think that this is difficult or impossible.

"Therefore, I urge you to meet as of now at all the local levels of Morocco with our governors and our officials from all the ministries concerned that have something to do with agriculture. We should consider not only how to distribute barley, wheat, or fodder or what to do to postpone the repayment of loans. We must also consider the means to employ the labor that was previously employed in the harvest activity."

Three deputies interposed to raise a number of issues connected with the situation in the semi-desert.

Need for 'National Consensus' Talks Noted

92AF0406E London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 11 Feb 92
p 3

[Article by Muhammad al-Ashhab]

[Text] Rabat—Ahmed Osman, the chairman of the Moroccan parliament and the leader of the Rassemblement National des Independants [Independents Group, RNI], criticized the Moroccan administration's practices, which he described as bureaucratic and inflexible. In a political meeting of his supporters, he called for the start of a national dialogue between all political, union, and professional activists on the coming phase, in which the country will face two deadlines: the holding of the Western Sahara referendum and legislative elections in late 1992.

Osman, whose party is held in some esteem by the main opposition parties, stated: "We are sincere in our call to hold a political dialogue intended to form a national consensus between all parties on the exigencies of the democratic transition." His remarks are regarded as a first sign of thinking about forming a national coalition government to prepare the country to cope with the demands of the time. Although the RNI currently holds five ministerial portfolios, its leader, Osman, blamed the government for "its lack of seriousness and flexibility." Then, without pausing, he strongly criticized the government, saying that "the practices that typify the activity of the elected local councils are deficient, because of the Interior Ministry's overstepping of its executive authorities, the composition of the councils, and problems related to funding and the management of financial resources."

He also spoke at length about several cases of a lack of security, and about crime getting out of control. He stated that "what has damaged us in Morocco is the spread of rumors that link the rise in crime with human rights cases." He added: "Crime is growing, and the means to combat it must grow. However, regarding true security, the competent agencies and material and human resources are not the issue. Rather, the issue is society as a whole. True security can only be achieved through comprehensive development."

Earlier, Osman had criticized a number of economic and social sectors in a directed campaign believed to be intended to confer credibility on his party's proposals. However, political observers believe that these criticisms, when they emanate from a political leader of his stature, are to be regarded as an indication that "the country is approaching a new stage," because the majority parties supporting the government are apparently troubled by the opposition parties' exclusive influence over average Moroccans. In addition, the call to start a national dialogue means that the majority parties do not rule out the possibility of instituting scheduled reforms, whether regarding reviewing election lists; discussing the amendment of the constitution; forming a judicial body to supervise elections to ensure their fairness; or dealing with religious fundamentalism, which might pose new problems with the [approach of] the date for election deadlines.

Political sources believe that recent political activities by these [majority] parties are intended to compete with the opposition parties, which have begun their election campaign.

Opposition Debate on Reforming Constitution

LD2502093392 Rabat MAP in English 1253 GMT
24 Feb 92

[Text] Rabat, Feb. 24 (MAP)—Three Moroccan opposition parties—Istiqlal, USFP [Socialist Union of Popular Forces] and OADP [Organization for Democratic and Popular Action]—over the weekend held a debate on

reforming the constitution "to secure the effective exercise of democracy and edify a society based on genuine democratic bases".

The meeting attended by the leaders of the three opposition parties, law experts and academics, highlighted the absence of international law in Moroccan constitutions, the difference between penal majority set at 18 and electoral age 21 and asked for introduction of a constitutional clause on Morocco's territorial integrity and for more freedom to local councils in elaborating their policies.

Delegates of women associations for their part claimed women's right to participate in political life and the creation of a council in charge of women's affairs. Women representatives also asked for the revision of the personal and trade statutes. Women association delegates say the right to work guaranteed by the constitution is limited by the need to have the husband's authorisation. The Istiqlal Party [nationalist] sees that the new constitution should review competences of some bodies, such as the Economic and Social Council, the Information Council, the House of Representatives, the Council of Scientific Research and the Council of Defense, Security and Foreign Affairs.

For the Socialist Union of Popular Forces [USFP-leftist], amendments should seek to guarantee balance of powers, the organisation of fair elections.

Secretary General of the Organisation for a Democratic and Popular Action said the amendment of the constitution is rendered necessary by new situations in Moroccan society marked by a social crisis and by the need to associate all live forces in politics.

Participants also underlined the new world order, the collapse of the Communist bloc, the new tendency towards more respect of human rights and of civil rights, and powers separation.

Government Said Indifferent to Strikes

92AF0455A Rabat L'OPINION in French 19 Feb 92 p 1

[Editorial by Mohamed Idrissi Kaitouni: "Government's Abdication of Responsibilities"]

[Text] Sectoral strikes are growing in number and affecting vital sectors, thus demonstrating the extent of the social crisis, which is becoming more pronounced every day and in response to which the government is abdicating its responsibilities.

Following the strikes in the Ministry of Health and in public transportation, now it is the turn of the phosphate workers to begin a protest strike, and they will be followed by teachers, postal workers, and others.

The common denominator in those strikes is protesting against the government's refusal to enter constructive

and sincere dialogue aimed at examining and satisfying the legitimate demands of the workers in the sectors concerned.

The government, being unable to crush the strike movement, is contenting itself—a sign of powerlessness—with showing its indifference and allowing the situation to deteriorate instead of undertaking a thorough examination of the situation in the sectors affected by the strike movement and showing enough imagination to find fair and equitable solutions to the acute problems being endured by the workers.

It is true that there are structural problems and problems of a general nature requiring overall reforms, but most of the complaints being made by the workers can be resolved because they are aimed at restoring social justice, protecting gains, putting an end to abuses, and improving, however slightly, the material and moral condition of the workers, whose purchasing power is affected daily by the rising cost of living and the depreciation of social benefits and who are under constant threat of losing their jobs.

The problem is not one of money, because the authorities can find the money if they want to. It is primarily a matter of political will, something which is unfortunately lacking in the government.

For example, instead of looking for appropriate solutions to the problems raised by striking workers, the government is choosing to use delaying tactics, pursuing its own policy regardless of the evidence, making promises it does not keep, and advocating "dialogue" only in order to discourage the workers and suppress their militant activity.

What is worse is that even when a strike is a resounding success and all the citizens know it, the government finds ways to distort the results in a ludicrous manner by claiming that the strike failed.

So the government is not only incapable of solving problems but also unwilling to face the facts: it is displaying stubbornness and blatantly refusing to shoulder its responsibilities.

Leftist Students Clash With Police in Fes

LD1003183392 Paris France-Inter Radio Network in French 1500 GMT 10 Mar 92

[Text] In Morocco incidents broke out this morning at Sidi Mohamed Ben Abdellah University in Fes. Clashes took place between students from an extreme left-wing group and the security forces. The clashes broke out when the police attempted to intervene to clear the entrances to the university. The students were demonstrating to call for demilitarization inside the faculty, as they put it. Entry checks are very rigorous. The students attacked the police with stones and the latter then charged with antiriot vehicles.

Need for Government-Labor Union Talks

92AF0235B Casablanca AL-ITTIHAD AL-ISHTIRAKI
in Arabic 18 Jan 92 p 1

[Text] Moroccan workers in the mining and urban transportation sectors have staged successful strikes. The strikes' success in these sectors has proved the ability of the working class to confront the deteriorating situation and exploitation, and to express, through legitimate means, protest against all attempts to underrate the issue and the lack of real negotiations to solve outstanding problems.

While the working class has demonstrated solidarity and steadfastness that has enabled it to fight battles in these basic and strategic sectors, the attitude of the other side, both the government and certain departments, is still characterized by disregard, nonchalance, and indifference.

In fact, the beginning of this year was marked by launching a series of strikes in various sectors, whether the civil service sector, the public sector, or the private sector. The strikes have highlighted the significance of the problems from which the workers are suffering in these sectors. These problems involve either the question of pay and compensations, issues of administrative or organizational nature, or matters concerning the labor laws, freedom, and union rights. The fact that has emerged from launching these series of demands is that the authorities concerned, whether government or the administration, although seeming to be committed to adopting a certain neutral attitude in relation to the workers exercising their right to strike, have stuck to their traditional silence, as if the strikes were for strikes' sake and not in support of demands that have been outstanding for many years with the ministries and the departments concerned.

The strikes staged in the aforementioned sectors confirm that the material and social conditions of workers and employees are worsening. This responsibility for this deteriorating situation is due to the lack of organized talks with the workers and to the government's policies that have led to acute deterioration of social conditions in Morocco. While prices have increased, the level of public services has declined. The housing problem has worsened. This is in addition to unfair working conditions and working terms in many sectors, and the behavior of some employers in the private sector who flout all current laws, despite their deficiency. In light of this legitimate movement in support of demanding rights, it is noted that the government authorities have grossly ignored this social problem. Not does this only expose the government's weakness, but also clearly reveals the nature of the class-system program it is pursuing, since it deepens poverty by allowing the prices to soar and freezing wages, and then resorts to austerity in social services. What the government should realize is that strikes that have been staged and are expected to be staged by other sectors are in support of demands and of social nature. Failing to heed them will exacerbate social

tension. Therefore, we insist that real talks with the labor unions must be initiated, and that the demands submitted should be carefully studied, whether these are the common demands by the various sectors or those concerning each sector individually. This is the government's responsibility, whose duty it is to organize the talks and social negotiations, whether on the central level or the sector level, by instructing the ministries and departments concerned to initiate this.

Following the general strike on 14 December 1991, the government set up joint committees representing the various social factions. These were called the dialogue committees. But we suggest here that what is needed at this stage is not to water down the negotiations by setting up procedural committees, but for the government to come forward with practical proposals and methods that would be basis for real negotiations on the workers' problems and demands.

The government's responsibility is clear. We believe that there is no need to evade the realities. Rather, the national interest calls on the government authorities to take steps to end all hardships and negative effects that the workers are suffering from as a result of the financial and economic policies it is pursuing. To let the situation develop haphazardly, to play for time, and to let the workers reach a dead end is nothing but a losing proposition. The recent struggles proved that, as much as the workers are aware of the authorities' plan, they are also fully prepared to carry on with the social battle.

Former Polisario Call for Release of Prisoners

92AF0421C Casablanca MAROC SOIR in French
8-9 Feb 92 pp 1, 3

[Text] Geneva (MAP)—A delegation of former Polisario [Popular Front for the Liberation of Saguia el Hamra and Rio de Oro] cadres who have returned home recently sponsored a number of activities in Geneva.

The delegation included: Mrs. Guejmoula Bent Ebbi, former member of the Polisario Political Bureau and former president of the Polisario Women's Union; Bouh Moustapha, aka "Barazani," former member of the Polisario Political Bureau and former spokesman for Abdelaziz El Marrakchi; Abderrahmane Leibek, former head of the Polisario Red Crescent; and Hassanna Lamdimigh, founding member of the Polisario, former director of foreign relations, and former representative of the mercenaries in Andalusia, the Canary Islands, and Mauritania. On the airwaves of French-speaking Swiss Radio, they made an appeal to Swiss and international public opinion and particularly to participants in the work of the 48th session of the UN Human Rights Commission to make every effort to enable Moroccan citizens of the Sahara now being held in the Tindouf region to freely return home to the southern provinces of Morocco.

During the broadcast, the various speakers condemned the arbitrary kidnappings practiced by the Polisario, the

misappropriation of humanitarian aid for personal and military purposes, and obstacles erected by the Polisario to the peace process in the region.

The Moroccan delegation then held an important working meeting at the headquarters of the Liberal Party in Geneva with Jean-Pierre Kupperschmid, party president; Jacques Simon Egly, editorialist for *LA TRIBUNE DE GENEVE* and state councilman in the Federal Parliament; and Mrs. Claude Howald, general secretary of the party. The meeting resulted in a fruitful exchange of views that led to a better understanding of Morocco's legitimate aspirations to territorial integrity.

The party's leaders expressed great interest in the issues at hand and in the explanations and information provided by the Moroccan delegation.

In addition, the members of the delegation were received by Mrs. Edith Ballantyne, general secretary of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF). Because the League's objectives are to work "to achieve constructive peace and the elimination of violence," the delegation's members presented the humanitarian aspects of the conflict and obtained a promise from the WILPF to work to obtain more information on the kidnappings of Moroccan citizens being held in Tindouf and the means of enabling them to return home.

The delegation of Moroccans from the Saharan provinces visiting Italy since Tuesday held a working meeting with the Italian section of Amnesty International on Thursday.

The delegation, made up of Boulahi Khalifa, Maalainine Mrabbih Rabou, Lhoucine Ben Taleb, and Mohamed Salah Tamek, condemned the daily violations of human rights in the Tindouf camps and stressed the repressive methods used by the Polisario to keep the kidnapped people in the camps by force.

The delegation's members reported the arbitrary incarcerations and torture indiscriminately practiced on camp residents, some of whom have been listed as missing or have died in the prisons of the Polisario, which has been shaken by multiple splits and the explosive situation prevailing in the shameful camps.

The Tindouf camps are under constant siege, the delegation's members explained to Antonio Marchesi, president of the Italian section of Amnesty International, emphasizing the need to put pressure on the Polisario to force it to lift the siege aimed at the Tindouf kidnap victims and enable them to return home freely.

The delegation called for an investigation by world humanitarian organizations into the fate of the victims, who do not enjoy the most basic rights, particularly freedom of movement, and emphasized the misappropriations of aid earmarked for camp residents by Polisario leaders.

Delegation members also pointed to facilities, which Morocco has granted MINURSO [UN Mission for the Organization of a Referendum in Western Sahara], in order to permit the holding of the scheduled referendum under the best possible conditions. It presented to the Italian section of Amnesty International its lists of missing persons and those being held in Polisario prisons.

Speaking in turn, Marchesi said he had "taken note of the violations of human rights at Tindouf" and pledged to pass on the file to the Amnesty International Secretariat.

Documents on such violations presented by the delegation will be "studied with great interest," Marchesi said, adding that he would not rule out the sending of an investigative commission if necessary.

It should be recalled that on Wednesday, the delegation of Saharans from Morocco held a working meeting with Mario Lana, president of the Union of Italian Attorneys for the Protection of Human Rights.

Causes, Effects of Rural Exodus Discussed

92AF0448A Rabat *L'OPINION* in French 1 Feb 92
pp 1, 3

[Article by Mostafa Nassiri: "Rural Exodus: Loss for the Countryside, Burden for the City"]

[Text] Development strategy and economic policy are two concepts, which in Morocco have rarely made a happy couple: The first has been distinguished generally by its absence, while the second has long been knocking about on its own, betraying its myopia by its tendency to wander around in circles.

For some time now, the basic problems facing Moroccan society have been critical and structural in nature. With no strategy in place to indicate the framework or means of any solution, today's problems—more insistent and alarming than ever—will choke our development tomorrow.

But the future depends on what we do today, and these Gordian knots call for strategies that will galvanize and spur imagination in all spheres of officialdom, giving people at every level the incentive to take their responsibilities seriously.

One of the most serious of these problems is the rural exodus, a large-scale demographic movement that is draining the lifeblood of the Moroccan countryside and overwhelming the capacity of the cities.

This phenomenon, with all its negative aspects and implications for the cities, their economies, and the nation's economy in general, has not received adequate attention from the planners, who are more anxious to meet macroeconomic targets than to design a strategy that would integrate all the objectives of development.

The rural exodus as such has almost reached unmanageable proportions, since the variables that describe it have already distorted the country's overall developmental prospects.

The rural exodus not only threatens the economy and Moroccan society but also represents a break in terms of the level of development of human, geographic, and socioeconomic structures, spaces and milieus.

Few studies or analyses have focused on the phenomenon of rural exodus. The explosion of filthy and anarchic settlements on the outskirts of the cities, the proliferation of shantytowns—where the erection of concrete buildings has done nothing to change the lifestyles or living conditions of the rural-origin inhabitants—and the poverty and misery in these populous areas have contributed greatly to the degradation of both the countryside and urban areas.

The tide of migration threatens to warp the very fabric of urban life.

The rural environment and these migratory flows have been the central concern of the National Council of Youth and the Future [CNJA], which has formulated the first rational and coherent approaches to a solution with its program of exposing young people to rural career options.

CNJA's target is employment in rural areas, and it has advanced the argument there is a close linkage between the rural exodus and unemployment [in rural areas].

These two problems have been considered peripheral to economic policy, but Mr. Habib El Malki, secretary general of the CNJA, noted in his opening remarks to the council's second session that "the 1992 finance bill is to be seen in the optic of a real policy to promote employment (Editor's note: which certainly has not been the case in the past)."

That means that budgetary policy and the CNJA's priority action program need to work together. "In that regard, wouldn't we be better off with a limited [budgetary] imbalance favorable to job creation and growth than a balanced budget that pauperizes?"

To us that makes sense, at least to a large extent, if the deficit can be managed with a view to achieving prosperity and social equity, since budgetary balance is not an end in itself in any case and in fact causes other serious distortions and setbacks to the Moroccan economy.

Here in our country, according to documents provided by the CNJA, the exodus from the countryside to the city is of "enormous" dimensions. Between 1975 and 1982, nearly 630,000 people left the countryside for the city. In 1987, the rural exodus involved 271,000 people.

Flows over the last decade have averaged 100,000 per year. The number of urban centers increased from 112 in 1975 to 240 in 1982.

The strength of the flow is more a consequence of factors pushing people out of rural areas than factors attracting them to the city. These small and medium-sized urban centers have experienced rapid growth, and the number of cities with more than 100,000 inhabitants grew from eight to 14 in that period. The population of the small urban centers grew from 160,000 people in 1960 to 1,160,000 in 1982.

The principal destination points for rural migrants are Casablanca, Mohammedia, Rabat-Sale, Fes, Marrakech, Meknes, Tangier, Oujda....

The urban population grew from 3,395,000 in 1960 to 11,318,000 in 1989. Migrants from rural areas made up 38 percent of the urban population in 1982.

According to CNJA, which sees a very close link between the exodus and rural unemployment, the causes of this phenomenon "are very deep and their interaction is complex." Demographic, economic, and national development factors are all involved. Among these factors, which also hinder rural development, are excessive fragmentation of land holdings, lack of opportunities for remunerative employment, inadequacies in basic equipment, and economic and socio-educational infrastructure, insufficient access to credit, etc. This list is not exhaustive. It covers only the most neglected aspects of economic policy.

Indeed, these and other factors represent essential rural development needs, which have not been taken into account in current policy and could only be encompassed and integrated by a real development strategy.

Problems like the rural exodus have grown and become more acute as a result of inappropriate attitudes and inconsistent policies.

USFP Notes Need for Political Reform

92AF0395D Casablanca AL-ITTIHAD AL-ISHTIRAKI
in Arabic 4 feb 93 p 2

[Apparent text of statement issued by USFP Central Committee on 1 February 1992]

[Excerpts] The Central Committee of the Socialist Union of Popular Forces [USFP] held a special meeting on Saturday, 1 February 1992, its first since the death of our party leader, the progressive and unique struggler Abderrahim Bouabid, may God's mercy be upon him. [passage omitted]

The USFP Central Committee—being aware of the critical conditions through which our country is passing and of the momentous responsibilities the USFP is shouldering in order to continue on the path of democratic struggle that the late Abderrahim Bouabid charted, and for which he ensured all the means of continuity and

success—believes that undertaking this responsibility calls for:

- enhancing the effectiveness of our party leadership organization;
- spurring the spirit of initiative that can mobilize the resources and capabilities inside and outside the party;
- logical and progressive management of our party's relations with its various internal sectors, particularly among the workers, the youth, the women, and the peasants and their associations and unions;
- establishing our party's general political struggle as a vital focal point for the mobilization of all living forces in the society;
- revitalizing political action in our society on the basis of freedom of opinion, clarity, the desire for collective work, and the pursuit of an open-minded policy;
- making the USFP, the party of Abderrahim Bouabid, the party of socialist and democratic choice, the party of all the forces adhering to freedom, dignity, science, and progress—a party that believes that today's Morocco will not be a replica of the Morocco of the past; and the party of revival, of the future, and of a better tomorrow.

In this context, the Central Committee, as it calls on all USFP strugglers to engage in a widespread mobilization in order to bring our work up to the desired level, reaffirms its desire to carry out its tasks on the basis of what our party has achieved in the field of unified action with all the nationalist, progressive forces, by taking practical steps that have become our worthiest credit in the field of struggle for freedom and democracy. The committee affirms that our party still desires to expand and develop joint and constructive unified action.

On the basis of its firm stands and out of its belief in the need to continue to link the struggle for maintaining the integrity of our soil and the struggle to build a new Morocco, the committee affirms the following:

1. The integrity of Moroccan soil, and Morocco's sovereignty over all the national soil retrieved from the claws of colonialism and the forces of partitioning, is not subject to any compromise or concession. The consolidation of this historical and political reality calls for a national action that would strengthen the domestic front and blend the regional characteristics in a comprehensive national project that would ensure equitable development and preserve the homeland's strength and solidity.

The Central Committee, as it salutes the national spirit of those who returned from the secession camps [of the Polisario Front], appeals to broad opinion to seek the release of our people detained in Tindouf and ensure their freedom to opt for rejoining their people and homeland. It affirms that secession has no prospects on the map of the Arab Maghreb, for there is no escaping the experience of the age; of democratic building; the building of the state of institutions, rights, and laws; and of respecting the people's will; building an economic strength that would free our people of want, ignorance, backwardness, and social discrimination.

2. With regard to the democratic issue, the Central Committee considers the battle for broad political, economic, and social transformation now an open battle that brooks no fragmentation or procrastination.

The institution of the desired constitutional reforms; the provision of political and legal conditions that would guarantee the impartiality of the administrative bodies, the integrity of polling, the effectiveness of the institutions that emerge as a result of it; and creating a new atmosphere in which the people would regain their confidence and ability to participate and to achieve—all this today became an utmost necessity for the protection of our political stability and for emerging from the maze of unpopular choices that have prevailed in our country for many years, not just demands for filling the political arena.

The Central Committee affirms that the USFP, which regards democratic struggle as a basic condition for transformation and progress in Morocco, announces today that our party will engage in such vital action with all its will and strength, side by side with all our country's forces of democracy and liberation, and with a deep empathy for our people's aspirations and legitimate ambitions. The party is certain that Morocco, with its resources, assets, and creative ability, could be an example of freedom, democracy, and equality.

3. With regard to the social situation, the Central Committee affirms its total support for the struggles our Moroccan workers are waging under the leadership of their central body, the General Union of Moroccan Workers, in order to defend their legitimate rights. It believes that the process of building a new Morocco calls for putting an end to indifferent attitudes and rejection of social dialogue. Our country's condition no longer allow any further expansion in social differences in the interest of factions that accumulate wealth at the expense of the Moroccan people and their toiling forces. It also appreciates the initiatives for coordination aimed at closing the ranks of union struggle.

4. The Central Committee, as it follows developments in the political situation in the Arab Maghreb region, reaffirms its belief that the greater Maghreb could only be the Maghreb of democracy, unity, social justice, and respecting the citizens's rights. The experience of years of independence has demonstrated the Maghreb people's maturity and ability to resist fragmentation and tyranny. Every time this people found an opportunity for freedom, they demonstrated their reserve resources and ability to sacrifice and give. Therefore, the Central Committee expresses its belief in the need to give Maghreb unity an advanced context, depending on freedom, progress, justice, inventive ability, and initiative as the basis for launching a new force effectively involved in today's world.

The Central Committee announces its adherence to the need for Maghreb solidarity in order to deter all dangers of foreign intervention. In this regard, it proclaims its

absolute support for the Libyan people and condemns all kinds of pressures and threats, to which it is being subjected.

5. With regard to the Palestine problem, the Central Committee salutes the Palestinian people's struggle in the occupied territories and resistance to colonization, expulsion, and Zionist expansionism. It supports the Palestinian leadership's stand, which calls for granting the Palestinian people their legitimate national rights. It calls on all the Arab and Islamic people to take steps to provide material and political support for the Palestinian people and their legitimate leadership, the PLO. It also calls upon all the Arab and Islamic governments to shoulder their responsibilities in defending Jerusalem, its land, its identity, and its religious and cultural values; and to support the steadfastness of the Palestinian people, defenders of the holy city.

6. In view of the blockade imposed on sisterly Iraq, the Central Committee reiterates its brotherly solidarity with the Iraq people, and insists on the need to lift the vindictive and inhuman measures that are threatening an entire population with an unprecedented disaster. As it also condemns the double-standard policy the U.S. Government is following toward Middle East problems,

it appeals to world democratic and humanitarian organizations to raise their voices against the vindictive spirit and discrimination that is directing the attitude of certain Western governments against the Iraqi people and Palestine.

While the Central Committee expresses its national and pan-Arab stands with firmness and clarity, it feels that its source of inspiration is our brother the departed leader, and his history of struggle, which, for us, will remain a valuable asset that will guide us in charting our party's course and defining the path of our struggle. This is in order to carry on with the noble mission for which our brother Abderrahim, may God's mercy be upon him, gave everything, thereby setting for us and for the coming generations an example of how the people's dutiful son, the national leader, the unionist struggler, and the pioneer who leads the masses of his country toward the new society, the society of freedom, dignity, democracy, and social justice based on the values of the age and the bright chapters of our history, culture, and magnanimous religion, should be.

May God have mercy on our brother Abderrahim, to whom we pledge that we will continue his efforts, adhere to the ideals for which sake he sacrificed, and preserve his struggle.

Berrada Pledges Support for Social Programs

92AF0420B Casablanca MAROC SOIR in French
7 Feb 92 p 1

[Text] Minister of Finance Mohamed Berrada drew up a positive balance sheet for the six years of macroeconomic adjustment by emphasizing that balances have been restored and that "the government will henceforth give priority to the social sector."

In an interview published Thursday in the daily newspaper of French business circles LA TRIBUNE DE L'EXPRESSION, the minister stated that "the policy of austerity followed without interruption since 1985 is at the root of the success we have enjoyed over the past six years."

Berrada said that "this policy of gradual, continuing adjustment comes to an end this year because the economic rehabilitation has been completed. Budget deficits, regular payments, and foreign reserves are all being handled properly and investments have grown an average of over 20 percent each year. Inflation, which was 8 percent in 1991, will drop to 4 percent this year." "The key to our success has been the rehabilitation of public finances, reduced spending, and increased revenue." Responding to a reporter who noted that "the IMF has just given good marks to Morocco's economic policy by authorizing it to draw up to \$129.2 million from it this year," but also that "the World Bank, while recognizing the exemplary nature of the economic adjustment in effect since 1983, nevertheless condemns the 'social deficit' engendered by the policy," the finance minister stressed that "the Moroccan Government's priority will henceforth be the social sector."

"Budget austerity has necessarily limited public spending on social investments, but we have also done better in this area than most other countries. A recent study by the Development Center of the OECD (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development) shows that only Chile and Morocco have managed to carry out a strict adjustment while generally improving the standard of living of the lower classes," Berrada said.

The minister also said that "the essential portion of new receipts made available over the next five years stemming from our previous successes will be earmarked for social programs with four priorities: education, health, justice, where progress must undeniably be made, and low-income housing," he added.

When questioned about current efforts being made by the European Community to go back on its decision to block the EEC-Morocco financial protocol, Berrada expressed his conviction that "Morocco's future is in Europe. We have officially filed our application for membership with the EEC," he said.

"We have undertaken a major, demanding effort toward modernization, both economic and social, but the European Parliament did not understand it," the minister

said, adding that, "We greatly appreciate the Commission's efforts to repair that error."

Nationwide Drought Conditions Described

92AF0395A Casablanca AL-ITTihad AL-ISHTIRAKI
in Arabic 31 Jan p 1

[Text] Almost four months have gone by without rainfall in Morocco. The fear of the disaster of drought has become a tangible reality in most areas. With the exception of the north, where there were a few moderate showers, and the Western Sahara, most of the farmland can certainly be considered disaster areas. If farmers in such areas as Rehamna have not yet started plowing and are still waiting for the rain, farmers in the biggest plain, namely Chaouia, for example, who have plowed several months ago, have despaired after their plantings died in the ground.

The loss the farmer has incurred during the past four months is estimated at 3,000 dirhams per hectare, including the cost of land rent, plowing, mechanical planting, seeds, fertilizers, and services. Many farmers assert that even if the rain should fall in the next few days, it will be too late to recover the loss. In fact, Chaouia plain, for example, which is supposed to be covered with green vegetation, is now a dreadful wasteland.

The livestock are also in danger. Last Tuesday, the price of sheep Ben [Jerir] market, the biggest cattle market in Morocco, has dropped by about 20 percent. Purchase of livestock for breeding purposes has also decreased. And since there has been greater demand for fodder, fodder prices have soared and speculation in fodder prices has begun.

Livestock breeders are now facing a difficult situation in their efforts to preserve their livestock, with fodder prices becoming exorbitant. Expenses resulting from the disappearance of pasture has reached 488 dirhams per head of sheep and 1,188 dirhams per cow. These expenses include four months' purchases of straw, barley, and white beet.

The worst disaster in this respect is the price of bran, which quickly jumped from one 140 centimes to 210 centimes. The same thing applies to dry bread.

These are, therefore, some of the effects of the drought disaster. Even before this disaster, the small and medium farmer used to live in misery and was working for nothing because of the rise in costs. The situation has now reached rock bottom and the worst is still to come. In these circumstances the farmer will have no alternative but to emigrate and to leave the land and the traditions to those who exploit the drought.

As this is happening, the government is absent. So far, it has not taken any measures to assist the farmer and intervene in order to alleviate the effects of this disaster. It is as if the matter concerns only the man who lives on

the land, who alone should suffer losses when there is a loss, and should surrender double his profits if any profit is made.

We are facing a drought whose cause is not only the skies, but rather one that is more serious, which is the dearth of official initiative.

Government Earmarks \$33 Million To Fight Drought

92AF0406D London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic
14 Feb 92 p 11

[Text] Rabat—The Moroccan Government has begun to formulate an emergency program to cope with the effects of drought in the country, despite several indications of an improvement in weather conditions and sparse rainfall in several areas, which have clearly left farmers gratified.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that the government allocated 30 billion centimes (\$33 million) from general state budget reserves to implement maintenance operations in the desert, dig wells, purchase wheat and fodder, and protect livestock.

The emergency program includes the implementation of projects that complement economic projects, such as irrigation canals, the completion of dams, the construction of roads, and the expedited start of the construction of a number of schools in the desert.

Urgent Measures To Fight Drought Discussed

92AF0453A Casablanca LA VIE ECONOMIQUE
in French 14 Feb 92 p 7

[Article signed "L.C.": "Agriculture: Emergency Measures To Fight Effects of the Drought"; first paragraph is LA VIE ECONOMIQUE introduction]

[Text] Several urgent measures, from a rescheduling of debts contracted by farmers to the creation of collective workplaces aimed at farmers suffering from the drought, were recently on the agenda of an interministerial meeting chaired by Mr. Driss Basri, the minister of the interior and information.

At that meeting, the ministers in charge especially of the economy, finances, agriculture, and public works extensively studied the country's economic situation in light of the first fallout from the shortage of rain, which has now been affecting Moroccan agriculture for three months.

Agriculture employs approximately 14 million people, accounting for approximately 55 percent of Morocco's total population.

In this context several measures that need to be implemented immediately will be submitted for approval to the government council. Included, among other things, are possible cereal imports, the rescheduling of debts

contracted by farmers with the Agricultural Credit, safeguarding stores of seed with a view toward the next farming season, fighting the waste of water, and looking for and drilling new wells.

Fight Against Unemployment

So as to minimize unemployment, which could result from the start of this drought, which is the most serious recorded since the years 1982, 1983, and 1984, the ministers also studied ways of setting up collective workplaces for farmers. The work [involved] would concentrate on land reclamation and the search for underground water.

In the area of livestock, the authorities last week decided as part of an emergency plan to release approximately \$31 million so as to safeguard the country's livestock, estimated at more than 23 million head.

This safeguard program calls for the purchase by the state of 1 million quintals of food for livestock.

The greater part of this purchase will be subsidized by the state, which has also decided to supply water to arid zones and beef up veterinary service so as to avoid the risks of illness and unchecked slaughtering.

Figures Show Increase in Export of Citrus Fruits

92AF0421A Casablanca MAROC SOIR in French
5 Feb 92 p 2

[Text] By 15 January, Morocco's citrus fruit exports totaled 215,000 tons compared with 200,000 in 1990-91, an increase of 7.5 percent, essentially due to the earliness of this year's season compared with the last and the volume of tangerines exported, whose quality has remained satisfactory. Actually, the weather conditions that prevailed from December until mid-January, combined with the lack of rainfall, greatly helped maintain and improve the quality of fruit, reducing the amount of spoilage and increasing export volumes.

It had been estimated that 140,000 tons of tangerines would be exported, but 158,000 tons have already been shipped and the total is expected to exceed 160,000 tons, compared with a total of 138,000 in 1990-91.

For navel oranges, the latest revised estimates are based on 90,000 tons exported, of which 55,000 tons had already been exported by 15 January.

While it is true that the lack of rain did help exports of early varieties somewhat, the prolonged lack of rainfall could have a negative effect on the ripening of midseason and particularly late crops, mainly affecting size. Whatever the case, Moroccan's farmers are impatiently awaiting the arrival of the beneficial rainfall for agriculture, still one of the basic pillars of the Moroccan economy.

As far as foreign markets are concerned, the drop in Spain's tonnage of smaller fruits has somewhat helped the marketing of tangerines.

For oranges, however, markets have remained quite heterogeneous with an undersupply from Morocco early in the season.

For its part, the domestic market has remained active since the beginning of the season. Actually, despite the lack of deliveries to processing plants, the small percentage of spoilage has reduced tonnages of fruit put on local markets for eating. Nevertheless, it is to be hoped that the average export prices, which producers will be paid, will be high enough to cover the higher production charges that have risen vertiginously at all levels this year.

Five-Percent Increase in Tourism Reported

92AF0421B Casablanca MAROC SOIR in French
28 Jan 92 p 2

[Text] In 1991, some 3.24 million tourists visited Morocco compared with 3,092,000 in 1990, an increase of nearly 5 percent, according to Minister of Tourism Abdelkader Benslimane.

At a press conference held in Rabat late Monday afternoon, the minister reported that the number of nights spent in 1991 was roughly 25,355,000 compared with 28.6 million in 1990, a drop of 11 percent. Foreign exchange receipts in 1991 totaled 8.921 million dirhams compared with 10.584 million, a drop of about 15 percent.

Total accommodations available at the end of 1991 was about 179,388 beds, 92,300 of these in rated hotels, the minister said, adding that in terms of the infrastructure, 3,300 more beds were added to the market every year from 1980 to 1990 and that 1989 was an exceptional year, with 6,200 more beds.

In 1991, 6,872 beds were approved for a total investment of over a billion dirhams.

In terms of tourist transportation, the minister emphasized that 4,000 new seats had been approved for an investment of 700 million dirhams.

Regarding hotel investments, Benslimane reported that 117 establishments were being built and will have 26,300 beds.

The minister added that despite difficulties recorded during the first six months, there were 245,000 jobs in the industry. In the training sector, the minister said that 1,000 new students were enrolled in tourist establishments during the 1991-92 school year and that there are currently 2,600 students in tourist schools.

The minister also emphasized that three new establishments will soon open their doors, to wit, the technical institute in Mohammedia and the hotel schools in Sale

and Asilah. Work will soon begin on construction of two hotel schools in Saidia and Fes.

Benslimane said his ministry would soon launch promotional programs in several European countries, particularly Spain, Portugal, France, Belgium, Holland, and Germany, to promote and provide more information about Moroccan tourist possibilities in Europe.

Tangier: Increased Tourism Anticipated

92AF0491C Casablanca MAROC SOIR in French
19 Feb 92 p 3

[Article by MAP: "Hotel Industry: Morocco Currently Has 120,000 Beds, Including 93,000 Tourist-Class"]

[Text] Tangier—Morocco is in an excellent position and has everything it needs to attract larger numbers of German tourists, said Mr. Abdellah Guennouni, chief of staff for the Ministry of Tourism, at the opening of the "Busforum Workshop" that brought to Tangier, on the doorstep of the Straits of Gibraltar, a group of Moroccan service providers and more than 150 representatives of German tour-bus companies.

Mr. Guennouni, speaking for the ministry, noted that Germany is a major exporter of tourists in the world and that Morocco is most eager to increase German tourism to Morocco, and especially to Tangier as Morocco's window on Europe.

Morocco currently has 120,000 hotel beds, including 93,000 tourist-class beds. It welcomed 3.2 million tourists in 1991, an impressive performance compared to the previous year, when tourism declined because of the Gulf war.

Mr. Guennouni also emphasized the high personnel standards in the tourist sector, noting that the sector already employs 5,000 graduates of hotel management schools, while 2,600 students are presently in training and two additional hotel management schools are now under construction, in addition to an institute at Mohammedia. The German market used to be concentrated mainly in Yugoslavia, but the latter's attractiveness has declined due to the internal situation, and Morocco is working to capture a portion of that market.

According to Mr. Guennouni, Morocco is perfectly positioned for burgeoning tourism, thanks to its proximity to Europe (14 km as the crow flies), its diversity as a multi-ethnic, multireligion country, and its natural endowments, which support swimming [i.e., the beach] tourism, winter tourism (skiing), and mountain tourism.

He also discussed the fixed link that is planned to connect Morocco and Europe via the Straits, which when completed will promote greater movement of people between Morocco and Europe.

Mr. Ahmed Bennani, president of the Association of Tangier Tourism Operators (APOTT), described the

workshop as important because it was the first time foreign tour-bus company representatives have visited Tangier.

Mr. Bennani said large investments have been made to renovate Tangier's hotel infrastructure; he also emphasized the need for effective follow-up on that initiative, which if completed is assured of success.

Mr. Wolfgang B. Knops, an official with the monthly BUS BLINCKPUNKT that helped organize the workshop, assured Moroccans that Tangier is increasingly included in German tour-bus itineraries, and said he was pleased to see direct contacts being made with these operators, who are beginning to show interest in distant countries like Morocco.

For example, German tour-bus operators may organize "exotic tours" to Tangier that begin in Andalusia.

Mr. Knops even advocated expansion of land-route tourism in Africa starting from Tangier, particularly the promotion of environmental tourism as a "return to nature," where the motor coach is more satisfying than the airplane, which after a couple hours flying time drops the tourist into a totally different world.

However, Mr. Knops emphasized the fact that German tourist operators are very demanding in terms of high-quality destinations and insist on maintaining direct contact with the service-providers concerned.

He expressed the hope that Moroccan tourist operators will hold similar contacts with their Spanish counterparts to arrange tours to Morocco.

Mr. Knops also said the German tour-bus representatives were pleased with the arrangements for their trip from Sete to Tangier on the ferry "Marrakech."

Other German speakers praised the quality of service in Morocco and emphasized the country's geographic position next door to Spain.

On the sidelines of this meeting, personal contacts between German and Moroccan tour operators took place.

Many of the German tour operators went on an excursion Monday to the town of Asilah.

The tourism sector is important to the national economy, and its various branches of activity demand highly skilled personnel.

This is why the Advanced Institute of Tourism at Tangier, the site of this workshop, was created in 1972 by the Ministry of Tourism. On 14 July 1987 this facility, unique in Africa and the Arab world, was renamed the International Advanced Institute of Tourism [ISIT], following adoption of a resolution to that effect by the general assembly of the World Tourism

Organization and the signing of an agreement between the Kingdom of Morocco and the secretariat general of that organization.

The mission of the International Advanced Institute of Tourism is to train upper management personnel capable of designing, promoting, and intelligently administering tourist facilities, enterprises, and hotels using the most modern techniques, adapted to the unique requirements of this constantly growing sector. To attain these objectives, the institute has been endowed with facilities and resources commensurate with the needs of its mission:

- an active, multidisciplinary and progressive faculty, organized to conduct seminars, case studies, practice workshops and simulations;
- university professors and outside speakers from the industry to contribute their know-how and experience;
- a variety of pedagogical and educational resources (library, language laboratory, audiovisual material, computer center, lecture hall fitted out with projection equipment, etc.);
- a program of mandatory periodic training courses, visits, travel, field studies, meetings, exhibitions, and other lively events that contribute to the professional maturity of the students and development of their skills and aptitude for making decisions;
- a system of continuous monitoring of the learning acquired from research work, and final examinations.

Situated in the bay of Tangier in a touristic/hotel milieu, ISIT offers students the necessary comforts of community life, dormitory facilities, meeting halls, a restaurant and cafeteria, athletic grounds....

Thanks to the quality of training and the international orientation of ISIT, students of more than 30 nationalities have already benefited from its course offerings.

Plans To Cope With Rising Tourism Urged

92AF0491B Casablanca MAROC SOIR in French
19 Feb 92 p 3

[Article by MAP: "Abdelkader Benslimane Underlines need to Adapt Training Programs to Growth of Tourist Sector"]

[Text] Tourism Minister Abdelkader Benslimane has underlined the need to improve pedagogical methods and tourism training programs to keep up with the constant growth in the tourist sector.

At a meeting with staff, faculty, and students of the Hotel Management School at Agadir, the minister said this task has been turned over to a specialized commission whose objective is to expand and improve the country's training programs, starting in the upcoming school year, to meet the demands of the tourism market.

Emphasizing the need to make "tourism" a subject of prime importance for students at hotel management schools, so they will understand their place in that sector, the importance of their role, and the responsibility they bear, the minister appealed to hotel industry professionals to assist in this project, particularly by offering lectures for the students to enhance their training.

In that connection, Mr. Benslimane said the "alternating work-training system" now in effect for second- and third-year students at that school, thanks to an agreement with certain hotel owners, guarantees on-the-job experience that will ensure that graduates begin their professional careers confidently and with excellent prospects.

The minister also said the number of graduates from the nation's hotel management schools now totals 760 (according to 1991 statistics), a figure far below what is needed in the sector, given the constant increase in the number of hotel beds: The number is growing at an

estimated rate of 7,000 per year. The minister said this means more work is needed in terms of both quality and quantity.

Despite the adverse effects of the 1991 crisis on tourism worldwide, Mr. Benslimane noted that Moroccan tourism made a substantial recovery in the second half of 1991, with about 3,240,000 tourists visiting the kingdom in that period. The number of tourists in January 1992 was greater than the number for the corresponding month of 1991.

The minister said he is optimistic about prospects for the current year, especially since during his recent visit to seven European countries he found that local travel professionals and developers are keenly interested in Morocco's tourist offerings. This, he concluded, should spur us to redouble our efforts to protect our assets in this field, improve them in quality, and provide higher standards of service.

Prison Conditions of Bourequat Brothers Described

92AF0404A Paris LE MONDE in French 13 Feb 92
pp 1, 4

[Article by Agathe Logeart: "The Tribulation of the Bourequats, or How Three Frenchmen Were Imprisoned for 18 Years in Morocco"]

[Excerpts] A white-haired man in his 60's sits in his fine-looking office at national defense headquarters in Rabat. He is the military prosecutor. Before him are three thin dossiers. He opens them, obviously ill at ease, then puts them down again. Three men are seated before him—facing him as best they can. Two are unable to walk without assistance. They have the confused, anxious expression and unhealthy pallor seen in people who have been tortured and incarcerated for a very long time. Finally the white-haired man decides to speak, although he cannot force himself to look them in the eye: "No charge or indictment sufficient to justify bringing you before the military tribunal has been preferred against you. You are free." This is what the three Bourequat brothers say happened to them on 30 December 1991: For them, it marked the end of 18 years in detention.

Free? Free to go where? To see whom, after 18 years of life have been stolen from them? Their wardrobe consists of the track suits they were each given. They don't have a real address, or a penny to their name. From 0900 in the morning to 1900 at night they sit on the bench in the military prosecutor's waiting room. While riding in the police van that brought them there, they caught snatches of street sights and smells. They were astonished to see women with skirts "longer than in the past, carrying themselves differently." They are frightened of the street, the city—and freedom. It might be a trap.

Of the three brothers, he [as published] seems to have suffered the least damage, although he has lost 9 cm in height due to compression of his vertebrae.

Bayazid-Jacques, 58, has lost 10 cm in stature. His face and body are swollen; he suffers from a serious endocrine ailment, and from iron and vitamin deficiencies. He had to be removed from his cell on a stretcher and is unable to walk by himself. His body has been in a crouching position for too long. The physical breakdown of Midhat-Rene, 59, is more spectacular. He has become 20 cm shorter and lost 60 percent of his respiratory capacity. He is hunchbacked, his thoracic cage horribly deformed. "It makes me look gibbous, like a chicken," he says of the malady, trying not to lose his sense of humor. "After suffering 14 years from a scrotal hernia—it grew from the size of an apricot to the size of two oranges—he has just had an operation. [passage omitted]

These are only clues, the possible beginnings of explanations for the ruin that overtook the entire Bourequat family. Too much, too little, or simply not very relevant? The three Bourequat brothers, who had many years in which to ponder these questions, claim not to know.

What they do know is what they suffered, from 8 July 1973 until their release on 15 September 1991 from the secret prison of Tazmamart.

Questioning, Torture

After their arrest, they were briefly interrogated (why did they "lie" about Dlimi?) and, in Ali's case, tortured. Suspended by his knees, wrists and ankles bound, struck on the head and feet with a packing cloth soaked in filthy water. Then, without any further proceedings, they were sent to a secret place of detention, the "Complex" near Rabat's university quarter: Ali was already familiar with its sanitary facilities, having done some floor-tiling work there. And then on to "PF3," an abandoned cottage at Birrami on the Zaers Road, just outside the capital. They recall that while there, in July 1975, they were forced to take part in an escape organized by fellow prisoners—soldiers implicated in the abortive Skhirat coup who wanted no witnesses left behind. Before their recapture the following day, they saw their mother and their sister Khadjija, who themselves were detained for 16 months, also without trial.

Then they were transferred to the gendarmerie barracks of Souissi. From 13 July 1975 to 19 December 1979 they were kept shackled day and night. Next they went to gendarmerie headquarters, Rabat's Camp Choukhmane, where they stayed until March 1981. When they were removed from this camp, they were again forced—as in all their previous transfers—to wear glasses stuffed with cotton. They were also forced—for reasons unknown—to lie on the floor of a van. They felt the highway turn into a dirt road. They heard locks being worked. In front of them, a door with 14 tiny ventilation slits opened into a black hole. From a neighboring cell, they heard someone shout: "You're here in Tazmamart. Among the faithless and lawless."

Tazmamart

Tazmamart: the secret prison near Rich, between Midelt and Rachidia, whose very existence Moroccan authorities have always denied. How can anyone describe it? The cries of demented lost souls, the Koranic verses intoned until voices subside to murmurs...the fingernails, clipped off with one's remaining teeth...the hair, cut by sawing back and forth against angles in the walls or with a sharpened bone...the pittance of dried vegetables and vermicelli soup set before them on the threshold, which after a time they could reach only by crawling: In 1984, Midhat was unable to walk. In 1987, Bayazid fell and could not pick himself up.

No light, no air. A furnace in summer, an ice-box in winter. They were never let out. There was no doctor, no religious service for the dead. But stories and jokes bounced from wall to wall, and the three brothers, just to hear each other's voices, would dream aloud of Paris and, like prisoners everywhere, imagine feasts of pasta and pizza, describe cities to each other, or try to recall the songs of their childhood.

But the silence about them was complete. Khadjija, their sister, after fleeing Morocco clandestinely in 1981, met with incredulity or indifference. How could she prove that these men had been "disappeared"? The others were too frightened to speak out.

How young they had been, how frivolous and unthinking.... "I was green, a young man who could have seen the reality of things but did not do so. That young man disappeared," says Ali.

While Midhat and Bayazid remain bedridden in the hospital, Ali has rejoined his daughter in Paris:

Anne-Berangere, a sensitive 24-year-old who, since her childhood, had scanned the streets for the handsome bearded man that might be her father. They are trying to reweave the torn fabric of their lives by gorging themselves on the love they have missed. Ali wanders the streets of the city in search of the Paris of his youth, his haunts, his bars, his favorite shops. French authorities say they are trying to find an apartment and have offered them an allotment equivalent to the minimum wage.

These three men—the "boys," as Khadjija calls them—have been stripped naked. They have nothing. They are just alive.

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